Access to websites

3034. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any order to enable a group of bureaucrats to decide the websites, Indian surfers are allowed to access;

(b) whether it is a fact that the order provides sweeping powers to police the internet content; and

(c) if so, the details of the order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) under the Department of Information Technology has been authorized to examine the complaints submitted by law enforcement organizations, Statutory Commissions and Home Secretaries of the Central and State Governments as also Court directives requesting blocking of specific websites.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

BSNL's licence for Delhi and Mumbai

3035. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited does not have a licence to operate in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that new handset schemes and falling tariffs offered by the State owned BSNL are expected to boost rural telephony; and

(d) if so, what is the response from the rural masses as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) does not

have licence to operate basic and cellular services in Delhi and Mumbai because Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), another Government Public Sector Undertaking has been providing services in these areas since long.

(c) and (d) BSNL has launched a scheme to provide handsets to the customers without any upfront cost. Customer pays only premium for the insurance. Although the scheme has been well received, the actual growth of telephones would depend on several other factors as well such as economic conditions, literacy rate, per capita income etc.

BSNL's cellular services in Jharkhand

†3036. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular services of BSNL are not satisfactory in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the frequency of BSNL is very low and its roaming system remains out of order;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by Government to provide comparatively more reliable services to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Cellular services of BSNL in Jharkhand are satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The frequency (bandwidth) of BSNL cellular services is adequate and roaming facility is working satisfactorily.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL and in the event of failures, efforts are made for the earliest possible restoration of service.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.